

Randolph, Virginia E., Cottage
(Virginia Cardwell Cottage) (Home Economics Cottage)
2200 Mountain Road
Glen Allen
Henrico County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-65

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44-GLAL,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

VIRGINIA E. RANDOLPH COTTAGE
(Virginia Cardwell Cottage) (Home Economics Cottage)

HABS No. VA-65

Location: 2200 Mountain Road, Glen Allen, Henrico County, Virginia

Present Owner and Occupant: Henrico County Board of Education, PO Box 40, Highland Springs, Virginia

Present Use: Museum commemorating the work of Virginia E. Randolph

Significance: The structure derives its primary significance for its association with Virginia E. Randolph's 57-year career of promoting vocational education for blacks in Henrico County, Virginia.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Physical History: Built in 1937 with federal funds to serve as the home economics building for the Virginia Randolph School, the cottage's exterior remains as constructed. The interior was rearranged circa 1970 to accommodate installation of a museum in memory of Randolph.
- B. Historical Context: Little is known of Virginia E. Randolph's childhood but it is probable that her commitment to education was stimulated by her mother, who was a slave in the household of a professor in Richmond, Virginia. Randolph's early training was typical for the period. She entered elementary school at the age of six but started working part-time at the age of eight, which meant she had to attend school in the mornings and evenings. At age 16 in 1890, she graduated from the Normal Department of Richmond's Armstrong High School.

Immediately upon graduation, Randolph's teaching career began with a two-year stint in Goochland County, Virginia. In 1892, she took over the Mountain Road School in Henrico County, where she spent the next 15 years making it one of the finest in the county.

In 1908, Jackson T. Davis, then serving as the first superintendent of black instruction in Henrico County, tapped Randolph for a new position training other teachers in the county in her vocational instruction methods. Funding for the job was provided by the Negro Rural School Fund which had been established under the will of wealthy Philadelphia Quaker Anna T. Jeanes. Randolph became the first of thousands of "Jeanes Supervising Industrial Teachers" who served throughout the South and abroad in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

This idea for using black supervisors to upgrade black vocational training in the elementary and secondary grades was new, but the emphasis on vocational education for blacks was not. In emphasizing vocational training and the use of resources at hand, the program was a descendant of the thinking behind Tuskegee and Hampton Institutes.

Randolph maintained her involvement with the Mountain Road School, which had become the Virginia Randolph Training School, and at one time maintained an office in this cottage. She retired in 1949, after devoting 57 years to black education in Henrico County.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement: This simple one-and-a-half story building is in excellent condition.
- B. Description of Exterior:
 - 1. Over-all dimensions: approximately 40' x 25'.
 - 2. Walls: brick
 - 3. Chimneys: two interior chimneys
 - 4. Roof: pitched
 - 5. Dormers: three dormers pierce the roof over the main entrance
- C. Site: The cottage is set on the campus of the Virginia Randolph Educational Center.

PART III. SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Randolph, Virginia E., Museum. National Register of Historic Places
Nomination Form, December, 1974.

Prepared and transmitted by: Holly K. Chamberlain
Historian
HABS
June 8, 1987